

February 23, 2011

To: Judiciary Committee
Re: Bill 918

Good Afternoon Senator Coleman, Representative Fox, Senator Doyle, and Representative Holder-Winfield and members of the committee:

My name is Mary Ann Langton and I live in West Hartford. I encourage you to support **SB 918 AN ACT CONCERNING SEXUAL ASSAULT OF PERSONS WHOSE ABILITY TO COMMUNICATE LACK OF CONSENT IS SUBSTANTIALLY IMPAIRED.** This bill would provides more safeguards to people with disabilities who are physically challenged in communicating consent to sexual intercourse when the attacker knows about the victim's inability or challenge in communicating their consent to sexual intercourse.

SB 918 is very important to me for a variety of reasons. I have significant disabilities, travel by my power wheelchair in my community, take the bus to my employment and live my life just like you. However, I was emotionally and physically abused.

My attacker tried to strangle me on two occasions. I was fortunate to be able to fight him off of me. The attacker was also emotionally abusive to me. These abusive acts led to me being depressed, and had to rebuild my life. In addition, I have been emotionally abused by some of personal care assistants who I hire to assist me with my daily needs.

I hope you will see the importance of SB 915 that would give better protection to rights of women with disabilities.

Thank you,
Mary Ann Langton
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